

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
@Memorial Library Community Room

JANUARY 8, 2009
7:00p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Second Selectman Stephen A. Fontana due to First Selectman Janet McCarty's laryngitis. Also present were Janet M. McCarty, First Selectman, and Michael J. Freda, Third Selectman.

At this time, there were no public comments relative to the agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Fontana to approve the minutes of the Regular Selectmen's Meeting of December 4, 2008.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Freda made a motion to reappoint Peter Fuhrmann(R), 106 Mountain View Terrace, to the Building Board of Appeals, as an Alternate, term to expire 12/31/13

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Ms. McCarty introduced Jonathan Bodwell, town engineer, to explain the following resolutions:

TODD DRIVE AND TODD DRIVE SOUTH/PINE BROOK DRAINAGE

RESOLVED: that in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Finance and Planning & Zoning Commission, the Board of Selectmen recommend that the Town of North Haven appropriate \$1,600,000 for design, acquisition, installation, and construction of drainage and related improvements in the Todd Drive and Todd Drive South/Pine Brook areas of the Town, contemplated to be complete substantially in accordance with the report entitled "Drainage & Hydraulic Analysis Report, Todd Drive and Todd Drive South/Pine Brook Areas, North Haven, CT, dated March 2006 and prepared by Diversified Technology Consultants; and that the Town authorize the issuance of bonds and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$1,600,000 to finance the appropriation. The funding for this project will include \$600,000 grant assistance from the State budget funds and a local match of \$1,000,000. The grant funds will be on a reimbursement basis.

Mr. Bodwell explained that the the first resolution addressed the flooding problems in the Todd Drive and Todd Drive South/Pine Brook area of town.

VALLEY SERVICE ROAD EXTENSION

RESOLVED: that in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Finance and Planning & Zoning Commission, the Board of Selectmen recommend that the Town of North Haven appropriate \$2,150,000 for design and construction of improvements to Valley Service Road. The project will include extending Valley Service Road by approximately 950 linear feet, reconstruction of the existing road as needed to accommodate the extension, and related improvements to the existing road and the new extension as needed; and that the

Town authorize the issuance of bonds or notes, and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$2,150,000 to finance the appropriation. The funding for the project will include a \$1.6 million grant through the State and a local match for the balance of funds. The grant will be on a reimbursement basis.

Mr. Bodwell explained that the second resolution involved construction of a road that would extend Valley Service Road, past the Rabina property and would provide a direct route from Washington Avenue to Route 22. It would further open up property for future development.

At this time, there were comments from the public on the resolutions.

Joseph D'Errico, 50 Corey Road, noted that a project was undertaken 15-20 years ago to correct the flooding problem. He asked if it would be done right this time.

Mr. Freda asked if the project would be done in stages and reimbursed in stages, and whether Inland Wetlands approval was necessary.

Mr. Bodwell answered that we would bond it all, but it would be done in three stages, from the parkway and then up to the other areas. As a result, we would get the reimbursement in stages. Inland Wetlands approval would not be necessary until after the design and before the construction phase. Mr. Bodwell explained that we need the approval from the Board of Selectmen in order to call a special town meeting for approval and be assured we get the state and federal grant money.

Pamela Parrella, 25 Trumbull Place, asked if the original pipes for drainage were placed by the State. Mr. Bodwell stated that the original pipes were placed by the State but they were not sized for the future development that has taken place.

Florence Sinow, 18 Maple Avenue, asked if this project will alleviate the flooding that takes place on Hartford Turnpike. Mr. Bodwell explained that it would not.

Joseph D'Errico, 50 Corey Road, asked if the state was committed to giving the grant money for these projects.

Michael Zuccarelli, 520 Middletown Avenue, asked if the federal government could renege on the grant.

Mr. Fontana explained that he and Senator Len Fasano were assured that the state had made a commitment to give the money for the flooding project and that the money was set aside from bond funds. A special town meeting will now be necessary to approve the commitment. Mr. Bodwell explained that once an agreement was in place for a federal grant for the Valley Service Road project and that as long as we take the necessary steps to get the project going, the federal government is committed. Mr. Freda stated that it is his understanding that there is a five year window on this project and that two years have already passed. Mr. Bodwell explained that the federal government could pull the grant if we do not get the agreements so it is necessary to get all the proper approvals.

Ms. McCarty stated that she was supportive of the projects and that there would be a call for a special town meeting in February.

Mr. Fontana made a motion to approve the resolution on the Todd Drive/Todd Drive South/Pinebrook Project.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana made a motion to approve the resolution on the Valley Service Road Extension Project.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana introduced Pamela Parrella and Patricia Jackson-Marshall, Registrars of Voters, to make a presentation regarding two issues:

1. polling place location for town referenda
2. compensation for Registrars of Voters

Ms. Parrella explained that based on the number of people who vote in a town referendum, it would be prudent to consider having only one centralized voting district open, the Rec Center. She stated that it would save approximately \$5,000 in personnel costs and other advantages would include: 1. no disruption at the elementary schools (including safety/security and parking issues) since school is in session for town referenda, 2. gym at the Rec Center is the only gym that is air conditioned, there is handicapped accessibility and it has the most parking of any district, 3. transport of voting equipment would be easier since storage is in the Town Hall Annex and the \$342 overtime cost for Public Works would not be necessary. Ms. Jackson-Marshall stated that she was told by the police deputy that police had not been stationed at polling districts for referenda and if police were needed they would be available.

Ms. McCarty stated she felt there should be police present for a referendum. She also asked if there was still a need for Public Works' overtime since the metal cabinets that were purchased can be transported during regular work hours. Ms. Parrella agreed that could be done and overtime would not be needed. Ms. McCarty then asked how people would be notified of the change in voting location. Ms. Parrella explained there would be one mailing to the households in town. There would also be an announcement in the paper at \$147 and public service announcements on NHTV. Notices could be included in the canvass letters that are mailed and notices would be placed in the schools so parents would be reminded. Ms. Jackson-Marshall stated that a mailing to all the households in town would cost about \$3708.

Mr. Fontana noted that he voted at the Rec Center and was concerned with the parking issue, and the fact that since Linsley Street is a one way, single lane street, traffic could be backed up with people waiting for parking spaces.

At this time, there were comments from the public regarding the presentation. Gary Zempel, 279 Maple Avenue, stated that he knew that Hamden has different voting districts for various elections and there are two consequences that concern him: people do not end up voting because of the confusion and when you add voting for primaries into the mix, the confusion is compounded because people do not know where to vote from one election to another.

Joseph D'Errico, 50 Corey Road, asked if there were anything in the town charter allowing this change. Ms. Parrella stated that one district was used when she was younger, so there would be no problem with the town charter.

Brian Cummings, 107 Clintonville Road, asked if one voting district could accommodate higher voter turnout times during the day, (i.e., in the morning or after work). Ms. Parrella stated that a count of voters is taken every two hours at each election so that they could look at the turnout numbers.

Florence Sinow, 18 Maple Avenue, stated that people in North Haven value their right to vote and therefore would not have a problem with changes in voting districts.

Miriam Brody, 500 Elm Street #15-4, stated that she had suggested this change years ago. She further stated that the parking lot behind the Rec Center was empty for elections even the past presidential election.

John Parese, 25 Tokeneke Drive, asked if the ballot boxes could accommodate the ballots that would be used. Ms. Parrella explained that they would have two machines and ballot boxes and also a back up and that the ballot boxes could be emptied during the day under the supervision of the moderators.

Mr. Fontana asked for clarification regarding the savings. He stated that it was his understanding that the \$5,000 savings for personnel minus the \$3700 cost of mailings would only result in a savings of about \$2,000. Ms. Jackson-Marshall stated that a mailing notification would have to be sent each year for a period of time. Ms. Parrella stated that notifications not mailings would be sufficient.

Ms. McCarty was interested in voter reaction and asked the public to call her office with any comments about this issue. The Board agreed to revisit the issue at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Ms. Parrella continued her presentation addressing registrars' compensation. She stated that North Haven is a midsize town with 16,208 registered voters, 419 inactive, and 65% of the population is registered to vote, 38th largest of 169 municipalities in the state. In the last election, in November 2008, 82% or 13,535 voted. She explained that the job of registrar had changed with the addition of new voting equipment, transfer of job duties from the town clerk and other responsibilities. She asked for an increase in pay and medical benefits, or payment in lieu of, since the job, in her opinion, was not part-time considering the hours worked. She referred to a comparison of like sized towns that the registrars had given to the members of the Board.

Ms. McCarty stated that the registrars had been given a pay increase of \$8,000 addressing the circumstances presented. She stated that she could not consider increasing the pay or giving benefits at this time because of economic conditions. Mr. Fontana noted that based on the town comparison, the pay for North Haven is competitive with like sized towns, especially those located nearby (i.e., Branford, Cheshire and Guilford), and receiving medical benefits is the exception rather than the rule. He felt that things should stay the way they were, given the economy.

Mr. Freda questioned what was meant when two towns listed health benefits for one. Ms. Jackson-Marshall explained that it was her understanding that, in each case, one registrar was a retired town employee and received medical benefits in that capacity. As far as the other 18 like towns, Ms. Parrella noted that only one town provided medical benefits to the registrars. It was stated that the registrars would be appearing before the Board of Finance with their budget requests February 25. The Board of Selectmen could revisit the compensation issue after that meeting took place.

Mr. Fontana moved to approve the following property tax refunds:
CAB East LLC, P.O. Box 67000 Dept #231601, Detroit, MI 48267, in the amount of \$202.19, and in the amount of \$308.32

DCFS Trust, 2050 Roanoke Road, West Lake, TX 76262, in the amount of \$97.44, and in the amount of \$148.69, and in the amount of \$90.47

Joseph & Kathleen A. Federico & Surv, 28 Robin Court, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$90.17, and in the amount of \$91.58, and in the amount of \$96.50, and in the amount of \$86.10, and in the amount of \$76.32

Financial Serv Veh Trust, 5550 Britton Pkwy, Hilliard, OH 43026, in the amount of \$237.73, and in the amount of \$211.06

Elizabeth Gerstacker, 54 Highland Drive, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$30.27

Harold G. Harris Jr., 600 Skiff Street, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$97.33, and in the amount of \$88.92

Honda Lease Trust, 600 Kelly Way, Holyoke, MA 01040, in the amount of \$43.83

Nancy S. Kopka, 11 South Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$49.98

Porsche Leasing LTD, 4343 Commerce Street S300, Lisle, IL 60532, in the amount of \$64.95

Quail Run Village, c/o A&S Property Mgmt, 222 Elm Street Ste. 12, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$1,512.58

Toyota Motor Credit Corp., Box 105386, Atlanta, GA 30348, in the amount of \$132.21, and in the amount of \$107.71

Toyota Motor Credit Corp., 100 Apollo Drive, 201, Chelmsford, MA 01824, in the amount of \$161.00

Toyota Motor Credit Corp., Product Operations WF21, 19001 S. Western Avenue, Torrance, CA 90509, in the amount of \$149.15

VW Credit Leasing LTD, 1401 Franklin Blvd., Libertyville, IL 60048, in the amount of \$469.04, and in the amount of \$248.41, and in the amount of \$395.43
Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana moved to approve the following bond releases, as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission:

United Aluminum Corporation, 100 United Drive, North Haven, CT 06473, Total Release in the amount of \$5,000.00

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Ms. McCarty announced that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 7:00p.m. in the Library Community Room. The meeting was moved to the first Monday of February because of the previously scheduled Four Chaplain's Program that has taken place the first Thursday of February at 7:00p.m. for the past 30 years.

Ms. McCarty wished everyone a Happy New Year.

At this time, there were no comments from the public.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. McCarty moved for adjournment at 8:05 p.m.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes